

What is Claimed is:

1. A personal digital assistant (PDA) enabled telephony system comprising:

a telephone set having a communication port; and

a PDA having a user interface for displaying telephony functions to a user, a detector for detecting a selected telephony function, a telephony application for determining a call command based on said selected telephony function, and a communicator for communicating said call command to said communication port;

wherein said telephone set receives said call command and, in response, executes said selected telephony function.

2. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 1 wherein communication between said telephone set and said PDA is achieved via a protocol implemented via software within each of said telephone set and said PDA.

3. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 2, wherein said protocol as implemented within said PDA comprises a physical layer for exchanging said call command between said PDA and said telephone set, an application specific interface for formatting said call command for use by said PDA, and a first information encapsulation layer for appending source/destination headers to said call command received from said application specific interface and transmitting same over said physical layer to said telephone set.

4. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 3, wherein said protocol as implemented within said telephone set comprises said physical layer, a network portal control interface for detecting whether said call command is capable of processing directly within said telephone set and otherwise re-transmits said call command, and a second information encapsulation layer for appending source/destination headers to said call command received from said network portal control interface and transmitting same over said physical layer.

at least one of an IrDA, Bluetooth, USB or RS-232 communication protocol.

5. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 1 wherein said telephone set includes communication means for enabling communication between said PDA and a call server.

6. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 3 wherein said communication between said PDA and said call server is via one of either a TDM or IP based communication network.

5

7. The PDA enabled telephony system of claim 1 wherein said telephone set includes communication means for enabling communication between said PDA and a network node.

8. The PDA enabled telephony system according to any one of the foregoing claims,  
10 wherein said physical layer comprises at least one of a wired interface or wireless interface.

9. The PDA enabled telephony system according to claim 8, wherein said wired interface comprises at least one of a serial interface, parallel interface, USB interface, tip and ring interface.

15

10. The PDA enabled telephony system according to claim 8, wherein said wireless interface comprises at least one of an infrared/IrDA interface, radio interface, and cellular interface.